



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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VIRGINIA'S ROW CROP YIELDS UP FROM 2003

Based on conditions as of August 1, Virginia producers expect row crops to have higher yields compared to last year. Cotton yield is forecast to average 877 pounds per acre, up 30 percent from last years 674 pounds per acre. If realized production would be 148,000 bales, up 24 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 81,000 acres in 2004, down 5 percent from last year.

Soybean producers currently expect to harvest 490,000 acres with an average yield of 36 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 17.6 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year.

Virginia's corn yields are expected to be 137 bushels per acre which is 19 percent higher than last year. Production is estimated at 45.2 million bushels, up 19 percent from 2003. Harvested acres at 330,000 is equal to last year.

Peanut production has increased due to an increase in harvested acres from 33,000 acres last year to 34,000 this year. Yield is forecast at 3,100 pounds per acre which is 200 pounds per acre above the previous year. Resulting production will be 10 percent above 2003 at 105,400,000 pounds.

Hay producers expect to harvest 120,000 acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 3.5 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 420,000 tons, down 8 percent from 2003. There are 1.25 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested in Virginia. The yield for other hay is expected to average 2.6 tons per acre, equal to last year. Production is expected to total 3.25 million tons, up 9 percent from the previous year.

Barley yields averaged 70 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels per acre from last year. The resulting production will total 2.8 million bushels. Barley producers harvested 40,000 acres, which was down 5,000 acres from last year.

Winter wheat production is expected to total 11.4 million bushels which is up 55 percent from the previous year. Yield is forecast at 60 bushels per acre compared with 46 bushels per acre a year earlier. Harvested acreage is up 30,000 acres from 2003 to 190,000 acres.

Flue tobacco producers currently expect yields to average 2,350 pounds, up 660 pounds from 2003. Production will total 54.0 million pounds from 23,000 acres. Harvested acreage increased 5,000 acres due to quota carryover.

The Commonwealth's burley tobacco 2004 forecast indicates that yields will be higher than 2003. Burley yields are expected to average 1,850 pounds, up 61 percent from last year's 1,150 pound average. Production is expected to total nearly 13.9 million pounds, up 86 percent from 2003. Producers expect to harvest 7,500 acres, up 1000 acres from 2003.

Fire-cured tobacco yields are expected to average 1,850 pounds per acre, up 21 percent from 2003. Production is expected to total nearly 1.30 million pounds, up 54 percent from 2003. Producers expect to harvest 700 acres in 2003, up 150 acres from last year.

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Corn Production Up 8 Percent from 2003
Soybean Production Up 19 Percent from Last Year
Cotton Production Up 11 Percent from 2003

Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year and 22 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 148.9 bushels per acre, up 6.7 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are higher in most of the Corn Belt and Great Plains States as weather conditions have been favorable during much of the growing season. Farmers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres of corn for grain, virtually unchanged from June but up 3 percent from 2003.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.88 billion bushels, up 19 percent from 2003 and 4 percent from 2002. If realized, this would be the second largest U.S. soybean production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.1 bushels per acre, up 5.7 bushels from 2003. Yields are higher than 2003 throughout the Grain Plains and across the Corn Belt, but lower than the record high yields of 2003 in the Southeast. Area for harvest, at 73.7 million acres, is unchanged from June but up 2 percent from 2003 acreage.

All cotton production is forecast at 20.2 million 480-pound bales, up 11 percent from last year's 18.3 million bales. The yield is expected to average 727 pounds per harvested acre, down 3 pounds from 2003. Upland cotton production is forecast at 19.5 million 480-pound bales, 9 percent above 2003. American-Pima production is forecast at 703,000 bales, up 63 percent from last year's output. Producers expect to harvest 13.3 million acres of all cotton, 11 percent above last year. Upland cotton harvested area, at 13.1 million acres, is 1.24 million acres more than a year ago. American-Pima harvested area is expected to total 250,000 acres, 41 percent more than 2003. Arizona and Texas increased American-Pima planted area by 1,000 and 4,000 acres, respectively, resulting in a total U.S. American-Pima planted estimate of 252,000 acres.

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